

**New York RCPP
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Agricultural Land Easement (ACEP-ALE)
Parcel Eligibility and Ranking Form**

Fiscal Year	
Landowner Name and Address	
Eligible entities names and addresses	
Parcel Location:	Locality (Town/Township):
County:	State:
Are all landowners of record AGI eligible? (Y/N)	
Are all landowners of record HEL eligible? (Y/N)	
Are all landowners of record WC eligible? (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming landowner eligibility:	
Name:	Signature:
Is the entity eligible? (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming entity eligibility:	
Name:	Signature:
Does the eligible entity have a written pending offer for the parcel? (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming written pending offer:	
Name:	Signature:
Does the land (enter a response for each):	
_____ Have 50-percent prime, unique, and important farmland? (Y/N)	
_____ Have historical or archeological resources? (Y/N)	
_____ Protect grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring and conserving land? (Y/N)	
_____ Have land that supports the policy of a State or local farm and ranch land protection program? (Y/N)	
Is the land eligible? (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming land eligibility:	
Name:	Signature:

National Ranking Criteria (Must be 200 points Maximum)		
National Ranking Factors and Scaling	Maximum Points	Points
Percent of prime, unique, and important farmland in the parcel to be protected (0 points for 50 percent or less, 4 points for every percent above 50 percent)	25	
Percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and rangeland in the parcel to be protected (0 points for 33 percent or less, 4 points for 33 percent or less, 8 points for more than 33 percent and less than or equal to 50 percent, 20 points for greater than 50 percent)	20	
Ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel to be protected to average farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture (USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture) (0 points for a ratio of 1 or less, 7 points for ratios of 1.0 to 2.0, 15 points for ratios of greater than 2.0)	15	
Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture) (0 points for decrease of 0 percent or less, 1 points for decreases of 0 to 5 percent, 5 points for decrease of 5 to 10 percent, 9 points for decreases of 10 to 15 percent, 15 points for decreases of more than 15 percent) (National Mandate – 0 points for 0 percent or less)	15	
Decrease in the percentage of acreage of permanent grassland, pasture, and rangeland, other than cropland and woodland pasture, in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 0 points for decrease of 0 percent or less, ▪ 5 points for decrease of greater than 5 percent less than or equal to 10 percent. ▪ 10 points for a decrease of greater than 10 percent but less than or equal to 20 Percent. ▪ 15 points for a decrease of greater than 20 percent. 	15	

<p>Percent population growth in the county as documented by the United most recent United States Census (Census Bureau Home Page)</p> <p>(0 points for growth rate of less than the State growth rate, 4 points for growth rate of one to two times the State growth rate, 7 points for growth rate of two to three times the State growth rate, 15 points for growth rate of more than three times the State growth rate) (National Mandate – 0 points growth rate less than the State growth rate)</p>	15	
<p>Population density (population per square mile) as documented by the most recent United States Census (Census Bureau Home Page)</p> <p>(0 points for population density less than the State population density, 4 points for population density of 1 to 2 times the State population density, 7 points for population density of 2 to 3 times the State population density, 15 points for population density of greater than 3 times the State population density)</p>	15	
<p>Existence of a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan established to address farm viability for future generations</p> <p>(0 points for no plan, 7 points for a plan, 15 points for plan documented and performed by industry professional)</p>	15	
<p>Proximity of the parcel to other protected land, including military installations</p> <p>(0 points easement offer area (EOA) boundary greater than 3 miles from the protected land boundary, 4 points EOA is greater than 1 miles but less than 3 miles from protected land, 7 points EOA is within 1 mile of protected land boundary, 15 points EOA boundary adjoins protected land boundary)</p>	15	
<p>Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure</p> <p>(0 points if EOA boundary greater than 3 miles in proximity, 4 points if EOA is greater than 1 miles but less than 3 miles in proximity, 7 points EOA is within 1 mile in proximity, 15 points EOA boundary adjoins)</p>	15	
<p>Parcel ability to maximize the protection of contiguous acres devoted to agricultural use</p> <p>(20 points if the parcel links two non-continuous corridors of protected agricultural use, 6 points parcel expands agricultural use protected area, 0 points parcel does not increase a protected agricultural use area)</p>	20	
<p>The parcel is a grassland of special environmental significance that will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 15 points if Yes, ▪ 0 points if No 	15	

Currently enrolled in CRP in a contract that is set to expire within a year and is grassland that would benefit from protection (15 points for Yes, 0 points for No)	15	
Total Points for National Ranking Factors	200	

State Ranking Factors (Maximum of 200 Points)

Resource Concerns addressed		
The parcel is located in an area zoned for agricultural use (20 points for yes, 0 points for no)	20	
Eligible entity has demonstrated performance in managing and enforcing easements by monitoring 80 percent or more of its easements each year – (10 points for Yes, 0 points for no or if there is no documentation to support a “Yes” determination)	10	
Contains State-specific factors for lands of special environmental significance, including grasslands. (10 points for Yes, 0 points for No)	10	
Parcel contains habitat for species of interest – or aids in the development of a wildlife corridor. (30 points for federally listed threatened and endangered species or development of wildlife corridor. , 20 points for federally listed candidate species, for State species of concern or for species of interest (according to State criteria), 10 points for contiguity to other protected lands, 0 points for no species)	30	
Parcel is in a geographic region where enrollment achieves landscape, Regional, or other conservation goals and objectives identified in Multi-State, State, County, Town or Municipal plan. (10 points Yes, 0 points No)	10	
Enrollment of parcel will provide diversity of natural resource protections including open lands, riparian corridors and forested areas and that practices are being employed to protect and enhance the natural resources in the service of both agricultural production and surface water quality protection. (40 points for 5 or more resource protections, 20 points for 3 to 4 resources, 10 points for 1 to 2 resources, 5 points for 1 resource, 0 points for no resources protected)	40	

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Farm utilizes sustainable farming techniques, including use of no-till drills, cover crops, organic farming, or other techniques (10 points for each for up to 5 techniques).	50	
The targeted parcel(s) are part of an agricultural operation in active production as defined by NYS Ag and Markets (10 points), has a business plan for future sustainability and growth (10 points), has a succession plan for the future (10 points) (30 points for Yes to all three, 0 points for No)	30	
Total Points for State Ranking Factors	200	

Reviewed By: _____ Date _____